

Rural Caucus 2/23

Working Lands Coalition

- Request is to make the \$3 million in one-time funds be converted to base funding
- Encourage House Commerce in policy memo to House Appropriations due March 1st to convert this one-time funding to base funding
- Justification for Demand
 - Previous FY \$7 million was appropriated
 - This year received \$1 million base funding + \$3 million one-time funding
 - Decrease in ability to address demand
- Sending out one-pager on the need for funding and breakdown of demand

RDCs and RPCs

- Influx of state and federal resources has exposed the fact that RPCs have been underfunded for “decades”
 - Has held back the capacity to adequately address community needs
- BAA
 - Trying to ensure that the flow of the \$3 million to communities is done effectively
 - Intent on making sure the selected communities are underserved and actually want help
 - Distribution of funds:
 - Helping Deputy Secretary find ways to expedite the program
- RPCs have been providing technical assistance to towns receiving ARPA funding
 - Assisting in how to use this funding and how to supplement this funding
- Canadian Jobs
 - Companies in Canada that want to establish themselves in VT
 - How do you address brownfield mediations
 - May expedite attraction to new companies
 - RDCs are in discussion with Canadian companies about coming to VT
 - 3 tools can be used:
 - VEGI
 - Hope to keep the program and make some tweaks to it to provide data to the legislature so they know its working
 - Rural and Regional Growth Fund
 - Money in the budget for Brownfields

Governors Institute of Vermont

- Need for transportation
- Forest Feature Strategic Roadmap
- Doing additional stakeholder convenings
 - Want legislators to be involved